

**Leadership Council Resolution 2011-15  
Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for shoreline armoring**

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, patterns and rates of change of shoreline armoring provide a key indication that “freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained” (RCW 90.71.300(d)); and

**WHEREAS**, patterns and rates of change in shoreline armoring can affect how “a quality of human life ... is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem” (RCW 90.71.300(b)); and

**WHEREAS**, interests in reducing ecological harm from shoreline armoring can diverge from economic interests in shoreline properties and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, shoreline armoring as measured by the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s hydraulic project approvals data base has been adopted as one of the Partnership’s Dashboard indicators of ecosystem condition; and

**WHEREAS**, technical experts from the Department of Fish and Wildlife have presented analyses to the Partnership about potential ecosystem recovery targets for shoreline armoring; and

**WHEREAS**, the Science Panel and Puget Sound Regional Implementation Technical Team (RITT) provided a review of technical materials developed in support of target setting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their May 24 and 25, 2011 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the public and stakeholders were provided an opportunity to weigh in on the options provided; and

**WHEREAS**, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the June 16 and 17, 2011 meeting of the Leadership Council provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership's guiding principles for target setting

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Partnership defines a functioning, resilient ecosystem to include:

Dynamic shorelines maintained by coastal processes such as shoreline erosion and ecological exchange between terrestrial and aquatic systems.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership's 2020 recovery target for shoreline armoring shall be expressed as:

From 2011 to 2020, the total amount of armoring removed is greater than the total amount of new armoring in Puget Sound (total miles removed > total miles added); feeder bluffs receive strategic attention for removal of existing armoring and avoidance of new armoring; and soft shore techniques are used for all new and replacement armoring, unless it is demonstrably infeasible

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with the steering committee of the coordinated ecosystem monitoring and assessment program to develop a robust system of monitoring and indicators of the condition of beach systems; the extent, pattern, and rate of shoreline armoring of marine and freshwater shorelines; and pressures on the ecosystem from other types of shoreline alteration of marine and freshwater shorelines.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership encourages partners to conduct assessments to project the extent of drift cell improvements needed for a functioning, resilient ecosystem, including support for increases in Sound-wide extent of eelgrass and viable populations of forage fish and salmon.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that reevaluation of the target adopted by this resolution will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures and the effects of shoreline alterations on habitat conditions and biological health.

Resolution Moved By: Diana Gale

Resolution Seconded By: Dan O'Neal

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

**DATE:** June 17, 2011